

REMARKS

This application has been carefully considered in connection with the Examiner's Action. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following.

Claims 4 and 25 have each been rewritten into independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of base Claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 22, 23 and 24 have been amended to depend on newly independent Claim 4. Claims 2 and 25 have been further amended to correct minor errors in terminology for the respective claims. Claim 32 has been amended to correct an error in the originally submitted dependency thereof. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Finally, new Claims 33-42 have been added. Of these, new Claims 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 define subject matter generally identical to the subject matter set forth in prior Claims 25, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22, 23 and 24, except that new Claim 33 depends on Claim 4 and contains the limitations set forth in Claim 25 that are not found in Claim 4, new Claims 34-35 and 40-42 depend on Claim 25 and contain the limitations set forth in Claims 2-3 and 22-24, respectively, that are not found in Claim 25 and new Claims 36-39 depend on Claim 25 and contain the limitations set forth in Claims 4-7, respectively, that are not found in Claim 25.

The Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 8-21 and 26-32 and for indicating that Claims 4-7 and 25 define allowable subject matter. By this amendment, the Applicant has rewritten each of Claims 4 and 25 as independent claims which incorporate all of the subject matter of the base, and any intervening, claims. In

view of the foregoing, Claims 4 and 25 are now ready to be allowed. Furthermore, Claims 5-7, all of which depend on allowable Claim 4, are also ready to be allowed.

Claims 1-3, 22, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ronen *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,675,376 (hereafter Ronen). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. However, in the interest of allowing this application to proceed to issue without further delay, the Applicant has canceled Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and has amended each of Claims 2-3, 22, 23 and 24 to depend upon an allowable claim, specifically, allowable Claim 4. For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 22, 23 and 24 and the allowance of these claims.

Further by this Amendment, the Applicant has added new Claims 33-42 for consideration by the Examiner. As each of the newly added claims depend on a claim previously indicated by the Examiner as defining allowable subject matter, the Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 33-42 also define allowable subject matter. The newly added claims merely seek to provide more comprehensive claim coverage for the allowed claims. More specifically, without adding Claims 33-42, eight claims would have depended on newly independent Claim 4 while no claims would have depended on newly independent Claim 25. In contrast, by adding Claims 33-42, nine claims depend on each of the independent claims. Thus, the addition of Claims 33-42 balance the respective claim sets by ensuring that both the additional limitations set forth in Claims 2-7 and 22-24 and not found in Claim 25 are presented in new claims, specifically, Claims 34-42, dependent on Claim 25 and that the additional limitations set forth in Claim 25 not found in Claims 2-7 and 22-24 are presented in new claims,


specifically, Claim 33, dependent on Claim 4. For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment adding Claims 33-42 to this application and the allowance of these claims.

This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: Dec. 16, 2004
5700 Granite Parkway, Suite 330
Plano, Texas 75024
Telephone: (972) 731-2288
Facsimile: (972) 731-2289



Michael S. Bush
Reg. No. 31,745
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT